



SCHOOL UPDATES & REMINDERS

HOLY WEEK:

We have had a wonderful Holy Week in school with pupils taking part in a range of worship and praise activities as we continue to #LiveLent at St Mary's. The culmination of the week saw the whole school share in the Gateshead School Sports Partnership's *Dance Re-unite* and then take part in 40 minutes of activity to celebrate our achievements over the past 40 days – a precursor to the joyous celebration for Christians the world over this Sunday.

You can find information regarding 'virtual' access to the Easter Masses/Liturgies in our Parish [here](#) and also elsewhere in the Diocese [here](#). The Ten:Ten family resource found [here](#) also offers a great way for parents to to involve their children in the celebrations of the liturgical season.

We hope and pray that you all have a truly blessed and safe Easter, and we look forward to seeing all our pupils back in school for the start of the Summer Term on **Monday 19th April**.

REMINDER – CONTINUING COVID-19 PROTOCOLS:

Please share these protocols with all adults involved in providing care for your child.

If your child displays any of the following COVID symptoms:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change of the sense of smell or taste

it is vital that you:

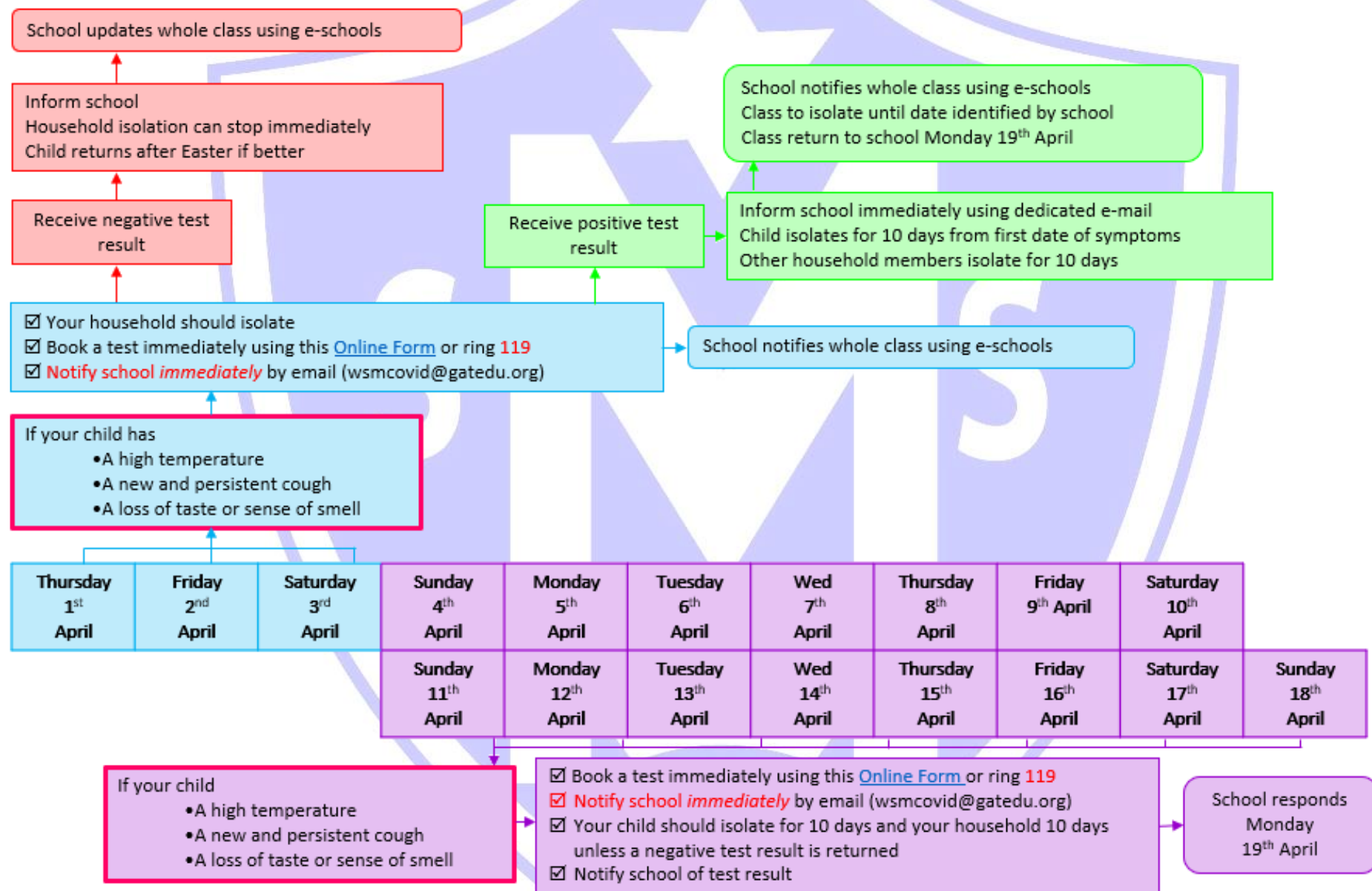
- **Keep your child and any siblings/household members at home** and isolated;
- **Book a test.** Tests can be booked online <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> or by ringing 119 if you have problems using the online service;
- **Notify school immediately** by emailing wsmcovid@gatedu.org.

It is particularly important that you notify school immediately if your child develops COVID symptoms on Thursday 1st, Friday 2nd or Saturday 3rd April as any positive case would have an implication on others within the affected bubble having to isolate over the Easter break.

You are strongly encouraged to book a test at a testing centre – rather than a postal test – to avoid the delay of critical information to contacts.

If any member of your household or **any close contact that your child has outside of school** develops symptoms, **your child must isolate immediately and must not come to school** until a COVID-19 test outcome is received by the symptomatic case.

PROTOCOLS FOR EASTER BREAK:



AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS:

After half-term, we plan to offer a limited after-school provision for pupils from some of the external providers we have worked with for a number of years. A registration of interest survey can be found [here](#) – and we would ask that this is completed by Sunday 18th April. School will communicate with families at the start of the new term in advance of the clubs starting on 26th April. All clubs will operate only for one-year group at a time in the first instance, and we will offer clubs to the classes who have the biggest take-up, or indeed where the sessions complement curriculum provision or best suit a particular age-range. Clubs will run for 1 hour and will be charged at £3.50 per session (paid in advance for the full term; no refunds for missed weeks; approximately £35).

PARKING AROUND SCHOOL:

Unfortunately, we have received several reports of a small number of St Mary's parents/carers parking irresponsibly in the vicinity of school when dropping-off/picking-up.

As you will already know, we encourage, where possible, families to walk to and from school – even should that mean a longer trip at the start/end of the day). Where a parent/care-giver needs to drive some of the distance to school, we would ask that cars are parked well away from the school grounds to ensure the safety of our pupils and their families.

Specifically, cars should not park (or drop-off) on Duckpool or Dockendale Lane, on any single, double or zig-zag lines, on no-stop markings around school, or directly outside the school gates. Those parking should also ensure that they are parked legally and that they do not block public footpaths, junctions, drives or entrance ways.

If you are – for whatever reason – late, we would still expect you to park sensibly and safely away from school and to walk your child to the gates, and if you are being picked up with/without your child, please arrange for this to be done well away from the aforementioned areas.

We would ask that this information is shared with all adults involved in dropping off/picking up to/from school, and that a renewed effort is made by all in the new term. Thank you!